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Title : Madam Speaker made Valedictory Reference on the conclusion of the 3rd Session of the 15th Lok Sabha.

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the Third Session of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha, which commenced on 19th November, 2009 is coming to a close today.

During this Session, we had 21 sittings spread over 105 hours.

The Session saw the disposal of important Financial, Legislative and other Business. Discussion on Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2009-10 lasted for 4 hours and 45 minutes before the demands were voted and the related Appropriation Bill was passed.

A combined discussion was held on the State of Jharkhand Contingency Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2009 and the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Jharkhand) 2009-10. After a discussion lasting for over one hour, the Bill was passed and the Demands were voted in full and related Appropriation Bill was also passed.

Discussion on the Supplementary Demand for Grant (Railways) was held on 15 December, 2009. The discussion lasted for over 6 hours 11 minutes in which 78 Members took part, before the Demand was voted and the Appropriation Bill was passed.

During the Session, 21 Bills were introduced and 19 Bills were passed. Some of the important Bills passed were the Rubber (Amendment) Bill, 2009; the Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 2009; the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2009; the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2009; the Essential Commodities (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2009; The Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2009; the State Bank of Saurashtra (Repeal) and the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Amendment Bill, 2009; the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Bill, 2009; the Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2009; the National Rural Employment Guarantee (Amendment) Bill, 2009; the Commercial Division of High Courts Bill, 2009; the Legal Metrology Bill, 2009; and the Trade Marks (Amendment) Bill, 2009.

During the session, 440 starred questions were listed, out of which 87 Questions could be answered orally. Thus, on an average, about 4.14 Questions could be answered per day. Written replies to the remaining Starred Questions along with 4848 Unstarred questions were laid on the Table. One Half-an-Hour discussion was raised by Shri K.S. Rao on the Inter-linking of Rivers and the Minister replied thereto.

About 224 matters of urgent public importance were raised by the members after the Question Hour and by sitting late in the evening. Hon. Members also raised 175 matters under Rule 377.

The Standing Committees presented 74 Reports to the House.

The House also held five short duration discussions under rule 193 on subjects of urgent public importance, namely (i) on rise in prices of essential commodities; (ii) on natural calamities in the country; (iii) on impact of climate change; (iv) on the Report of the Liberhan Ayodhya Commission of Inquiry and Memorandum of Action Taken by the Government on the Report; and (v) on Indo-China relations with Special reference to recent occurrences. The discussions on these important matters concluded with the reply of the concerned Ministers. A discussion on the increase in naxalite and Maoist activities, initiated by Shri Basudeb Acharia, could not be completed.

During the session, seven important matters were raised by way of Calling Attention, namely (i) on situation arising out of shortage of fertilizers and seeds in the country; (ii) regarding the plight of Tamilians in Sri Lanka; (iii) on situation arising out of Government's move to merge various Public Sector Banks; (iv) on situation arising out of Government's decision to disinvest shares in Public Sector Enterprises and steps taken in this regard;

(v) on need to confer the status of 'Heritage City' on Amritsar; and (vi) regarding situation arising out of Rapid Increase in Cases of Encephalitis in the country, particularly in Eastern Uttar Pradesh; and (vii) Government's acceptance of the recommendations of Valiathan Committee Report on AIIMS. In response to these Calling Attentions, the concerned Ministers made statements and also replied to the clarifications sought by the members.

As many as 15 statements were made by the Ministers on various other important subjects and four statements were made by the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs on Government Business.

Coming to the Private Members' Business, 31 Private Members' Bills were introduced during the Session. Discussion on a Bill, namely, the Underdeveloped and Backward Areas and Regions (Special Provisions for Accelerated Development) Bill, 2009 moved by Shri Baijayant Panda on 17 July, 2009 commenced on 4th December, 2009. The Bill was withdrawn with the leave of the House after a detailed discussion. The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Amendment) Bill, 2009 moved by Shri Francisco Sardinha was also discussed and withdrawn by the member with the leave of the House. The Compulsory Voting Bill, 2009 moved by Shri J.P. Agarwal remained part-discussed.

Discussion on Private Members' Resolution regarding steps to ensure availability of drinking water in the country moved by Shri Satpal Maharaj on 10 July, 2009 was further discussed on 11 December, 2009. The Resolution which received support from all sides of the House was withdrawn after discussion. Another Resolution on Special economic development package for the Eastern districts of the State of Uttar Pradesh moved by Rajkumari Ratna Singh remained part-discussed.

A Resolution moved by the Chair on the first anniversary of the Mumbai terrorist attack on 26 November, 2009 was unanimously adopted before the House paid homage to the victims of this terror attack.

In this session, we lost over 31 hours 49 minutes of time due to interruptions and forced adjournments. However the House sat late for over 13 hours to transact important financial and other business for which I thank the Members.

This House is the symbol of the dreams of over one billion people of this country. The Members as their chosen representatives have taken a solemn oath that they will faithfully discharge their duty cast upon them. That sacred duty is to discuss and debate the problems of the people and find solutions. The Constitution and the Rules of Procedure lay down the parameters for the proper functioning of this House. It is disturbing to note that a thinking is growing among certain sections in the House that the House should be paralyzed in order to make a political point. This is a tragic development which can emasculate this House and render the democratic processes ineffective and irrelevant. I would urge upon the Members to make an honest introspection about this disturbing trend in the functioning of this sovereign House and make individual and collective efforts to re-establish its great and hallowed traditions of enlightened debates and discussions. Only then, will we be able to sustain the legitimacy and credibility of this great Institution.

In the past two days, the House remained in a disturbed condition because of the Telangana issue. Ours is a democratic society which, I am sure, can find solutions to the most intractable problems. The maturity and sagacity found in the democratic political forces should help them discover rational approaches to solving this problem. Democratic processes are characterized by the flexibility of approaches which are opposed to maximalist positions on any matter. I hope such approaches and attitudes will reemerge in the coming days and the democratic spirit of inclusiveness will reassert itself in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

I would like to thank the hon. Deputy Speaker and my colleagues in the Panel of Chairmen for their help and cooperation in the completion of business of the House. I am extremely grateful to the hon. Prime Minister, the Leader of the House, the Leader of Opposition, Chairperson of UPA, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Leaders of various parties and groups as well as the Chief Whips, apart from the hon. Members, for their cooperation. I would also like to thank, on behalf of all of you, our friends in the Media. I take this opportunity to compliment the Secretary-General for the competent and expert assistance he has rendered to me. I thank the officers and staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat for their dedicated and prompt service to the House. I also thank the allied agencies for their able assistance in the conduct of the proceedings of the House.

MADAM SPEAKER : I wish Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to the hon. Members.

Members may now stand up as *Vande Mataram* would be played.

**12.31 hrs.**

**NATIONAL SONG**

*The National Song was played*

**12.32 hrs.**

MADAM SPEAKER : Now the House stands adjourned *sine die*.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.*

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* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 1622/15/09